

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected the claims as follows: Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 7,126,498 B2 to Levy. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 7,126,498 B2 to Levy in view of US Patent No. 3,971,902 to Wulf et al.

Regarding the rejection under §102(e) of Claims 12 and 13, Claims 12 and 13 are patentably distinct over Levy. The Examiner states that Levy teaches “a plurality of linear key arrays positioned over the dome switch plate, each key array having first and second key regions [see attached figure] connected to each other at a boundary portion [see attached figure].” (Office Action, page 2).

However, it is clear that Levy et al. instead states, “FIG. 2 shows a portion of an IACK keypad, with four independent keys 32 surrounding a combination key 34.” (Levy, col. 10, lines 63-64). FIG. 2 depicts a combination key surrounded by four keys in a non-linear arrangement. FIG. 3, which is referenced by the Examiner, does not depict a linear key array, but a cross-section of the key non-linear key array of FIG. 2, showing only two out of four key areas. Further, Levy states, “a keypad includes an exposed keymat with independent key regions arranged in an array of multiple rows and columns, and combination key regions defined between rows and columns of the array of independent key regions.” (Levy, col. 2, lines 32-36). As shown in FIG. 5, the keypad disclosed in Levy does not feature a plurality of linear key arrays, but a plurality of non-linear key arrangements.

Therefore, Levy does not teach “a plurality of linear key arrays positioned over the dome switch plate, each key array having first and second key regions connected to each other at a boundary portion.” Therefore Claims 12 and 13 of the present invention

are patentable over Levy. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

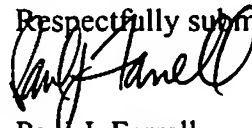
Regarding the §103(a) rejection of Claims 1, 8, and 11, which are characterized by one or more key arrays, each key array being provided with first and second key regions to each other at a boundary portion, these claims are not disclosed or suggested by Levy and Wulf et al., neither alone nor in combination. As stated above regarding Claims 12 and 13, Levy does not teach, disclose, or suggest the above-cited limitation. Further, Wulf et al., which discloses a key input unit having a keymat with a single, non-linear array of key regions, does not cure the deficiencies of Levy. (Wulf et al., FIGs. 1-3). Therefore Claims 1, 8, and 11 of the present invention are patentable Levy and Wulf et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of independent Claims 1, 8, and 11 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 and 9-10 are dependent claims, and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given above with regard to their respective independent Claims 1 and 8.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-13, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

THE FARRELL LAW FIRM, PC
333 Earle Ovington Blvd., Suite 701
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-3565
Fax: (516) 228-8475

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Farrell
Reg. No. 33,494
Attorney for Applicant